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(54) ETCHING LIQUID OF COMPOUND SEMICONDUCTOR FILM, MANUFACTURING METHOD THEREFOR AND ETCHING METHOD OF COMPOUND SEMICONDUCTOR FILM

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To clearly etch compound semiconductor films at equal speed.

SOLUTION: Mixed aqueous solution, where 1 pt. (corresponding to 0.36 pts. wt. as hydrogen chloride content) of hydrochloric acid (c-HCl: 36 wt.% of hydrogen chloride content and specific gravity of 1.18), 1 pt. (corresponding to 0.3 pts.wt. as hydrogen

peroxide content) of hydrogen peroxide water (30 wt.% of hydrogen peroxide content and specific gravity of 1.12) and 10 pts.wt. of 50 vol.% of sulfuric acid (64 wt.% of sulfuric acid and specific gravity of 1.54) is prepared, with respect to 10 vol.% of acetic acid (specific gravity 1.07) by a volume ratio. The four types of compound semiconductor films formed of Al0.25Ga0.25In0.5P, Ga0.5In0.5P, Al0.5Ga0.5As and GaAs are subjected to etching with an enchant.

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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] The etching reagent of the compound semiconductor film which consists of a water solution containing four components of an acetic acid, a sulfuric acid, a hydrogen chloride, and a hydrogen peroxide.

[Claim 2] The etching reagent of the compound semiconductor film according to claim 1 which has the weight ratio of the hydrogen chloride and hydrogen peroxide which are contained in said water solution in or more 0.4 four or less range.

[Claim 3] The etching reagent of the compound semiconductor film according to claim 1 whose content of a sulfuric acid the content of a hydrogen chloride is 0.6 or less [0.2 or more] to an acetic acid 10 by the weight ratio, the content of a hydrogen peroxide is 0.5 or less [0.16 or more], and is 18 or less [4.6 or more].

[Claim 4] The manufacture approach of the etching reagent of the compound semiconductor film of obtaining the water solution which prepared [the hydrochloric acid of 36 % of the weight of hydrogen chloride contents] or more 0.5 1.5 or less and 64% of the weight of a sulfuric acid for with an or more 0.5 contents [1.5 or less and 30 % of the weight of hydrogen-peroxide contents] hydrogen peroxide solution 20 or less [5 or more] to the acetic acid 10 at the rate of a volume ratio.

[Claim 5] With the etching reagent which consists of a water solution containing four components of an acetic acid, a sulfuric acid, a hydrogen chloride, and a hydrogen peroxide A part of 1st semi-conductor layer which consists of Alx1Ga1-x1-y2Iny2P (0.1 <=x1<1, 0<y2<0.9) formed on the semi-conductor layer which consists of Ga1-y1Iny1P (0 <=y1 <=1) The etching approach of the compound semiconductor film of having the process which etches the 2nd semi-conductor layer both which consists of Ga1-y3Iny3P (0 <=y3 <=1) layer or an Alx2Ga1-x2As (0 <=x2<1) layer.

[Claim 6] The etching approach of the compound semiconductor film according to claim 5 of having established the process which carries out selective etching of said 1st semi-conductor layer on said Ga1-y1Iny1P (0 <=y1 <=1)

semi-conductor layer with the high selection etching reagent of the selectivity of AlGaInP and GaInP after said etching process.

[Claim 7] The etching approach of the compound semiconductor film according to claim 6 that said selection etching reagent consists of a mixed solution of a hydrochloric acid and a polyfunctional carboxylic acid.

[Claim 8] The etching approach of compound semiconductor multilayers according to claim 7 that the mixed ratio of the hydrochloric acid / polyfunctional carboxylic acid of said mixed solution is [the volume of the 50 % of the weight water solution of said polyfunctional carboxylic acid] or more 1 four or less range to the volume 1 of the hydrochloric acid of 36 % of the weight of hydrogen chloride contents.

[Claim 9] The etching approach of compound semiconductor multilayers according to claim 7 or 8 that a polyfunctional carboxylic acid consists of dicarboxylic acid or optical inactive hydroxy acid.

[Claim 10] The etching approach of compound semiconductor multilayers according to claim 9 that a polyfunctional carboxylic acid is one chosen from the malonic acid and the glycolic acid.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Field of the Invention] This invention relates to the etching reagent of the compound semiconductor film which constitutes the semiconductor device used

as light emitting devices, such as a light emitting diode and semiconductor laser, its manufacture approach, and the etching approach of the compound semiconductor film.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] Conventionally, generally the compound semiconductor film of III-V groups, such as GaAs, AlGaAs, AlGaInP, and GaInP, which constitutes a semiconductor device is produced as epitaxial growth film on a compound semiconductor substrate of the same kind using metal-organic chemical vapor deposition (MOCVD). In semiconductor laser, the multilayers of this compound semiconductor film are formed and it functions as a quantum well, a barrier layer, a cladding layer, a cap layer, etc., respectively. The silicon-dioxide film etc. is formed timely into the above-mentioned multilayers. At the etching process in a component production process, compound semiconductor multilayers show a metal salt-property chemically, a wafer front face is a hydrophilic property and a silicon semi-conductor shows different chemical reactivity at it. So, generally the etching reagent of a compound semiconductor is constituted considering an acid or alkali as an pervasion component.

[0003] The etching reagent mixes organic acids (carboxylic acid), such as a tartaric acid and an acetic acid, uses them as buffer solution, stabilizes the property of an acid, and raises an etching property to an inorganic acid, and is used for it in many cases. Although the dissociation degree of a proton belongs to weak acid low compared with an inorganic acid, there are the molecular structures various by the organic acid, and, as for a carboxylic acid, the difference in the molecular structure has effects of various on an etching property. Moreover, hydrogen peroxide solution is added further, the erosiveness over the anion component of a compound semiconductor is raised, and an etching reagent is constituted in many cases.

[0004] Mixing with organic carboxylic acids, such as a tartaric acid and an acetic acid, and using inorganic acids, such as a sulfuric acid and a hydrochloric acid, as a selection etching reagent to AlGaInP/GaInP as a selection etching reagent of compound semiconductor multilayers, conventionally, by the production process of the compound semiconductor device which consists of AlGaInP used for red laser etc., GaInP, etc., is indicated by JP,7-86698,A.

[0005] Moreover, the etching reagent without the selectivity which consists of mixed liquor of an acetic acid, a hydrochloric acid, and hydrogen peroxide

solution was known.

[0006]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] However, in the above-mentioned conventional etching reagent, since it had etch selectivity with ingredients, such as GaAs, AlGaAs, AlGaInP, GaInP, etc. which constitute a compound semiconductor device, or the anisotropy of etching arose, there was a problem of could etch neither into the compound semiconductor film which consists of GaAs, AlGaAs, AlGaInP, or GaInP at the same rate, or producing the dry area of the front face of for example, the compound semiconductor film. That is, there was a trouble that there was no etching reagent which prevents that the dry area of the front face of the compound semiconductor film arises, and etches a front face flat and smooth.

[0007] The mixed liquor of the further above-mentioned acetic acid, a hydrochloric acid, and hydrogen peroxide solution had the trouble that an etching side was not smooth, either, when acetic-acid concentration had a strong odor and it was hard to deal with it on an activity very highly (80% or more).

[0008] Moreover, although the tartaric acid was a carboxylic acid which the

solubility to water is also high and fitted etching as an organic acid to be used, when there were three kinds of optical isomers, D-, L-, and meso-, with the relative position of an OH radical and a carboxyl group and etching was influenced of light, there was a property which forms a TARUTORATO metal complex, and there was a fault that an etching process was tinctured with complexity.

[0009] Then, this invention sets it as the first purpose to offer the etching reagent of the compound semiconductor film without selective reaction nature which is the same rate about each of each compound semiconductor film, such as GaAs, AlGaInP, and GaInP, and can etch a front face so that it may become smooth.

[0010] Moreover, the second purpose of this invention is constituted using the above-mentioned etching reagent, and is to offer the etching approach of the new compound semiconductor multilayers which vary and can realize pattern-like selective etching of the high definition of compound semiconductor multilayers that there is nothing.

[0011]

[Means for Solving the Problem] In order to solve the above-mentioned technical

problem, the etching reagent of the compound semiconductor film of this invention consists of etching reagents of the compound semiconductor film which consists of a water solution containing four components of an acetic acid, a sulfuric acid, a hydrogen chloride, and a hydrogen peroxide.

[0012] The etching reagent of the compound semiconductor film which does not have the selective reaction nature which all of each compound semiconductor film, such as GaAs, AlGaAs, AlGaInP, and GaInP, are the same rates, and is etched finely by this configuration is obtained.

[0013] Moreover, the etching approach of the compound semiconductor film of this invention With the etching reagent which consists of a water solution containing four components of an acetic acid, a sulfuric acid, a hydrogen chloride, and a hydrogen peroxide A part of 1st semi-conductor layer which consists of Alx1Ga1-x1-y-2Iny2P (0.1 <=x1<1, 0<y2<0.9) formed on the semi-conductor layer which consists of Ga1-y1Iny1P (0 <=y1 <=1) The process which etches the 2nd semi-conductor layer both which consists of Ga1-y3Iny3P (0 <=y3 <=1) layer or an Alx2Ga1-x2As (0 <=x2<1) layer, With the high selection etching reagent of the selectivity of AlGaInP and GaInP, the process which carries out selective etching of said 1st semi-conductor layer on said

Ga1-y1Iny1P (0 <=y1 <=1) semi-conductor layer is established.

[0014] The etching approach of the compound semiconductor multilayers which vary and can realize pattern-like selective etching of the high definition of compound semiconductor multilayers by this configuration that there is nothing is acquired.

[0015]

[Embodiment of the Invention] Using the etching reagent of this invention as the etching reagent of the compound semiconductor film which consists of a water solution containing four components of an acetic acid, a sulfuric acid, a hydrogen chloride, and a hydrogen peroxide, all these four components are required and each of this component has the following operations to the III-V compound semiconductor film.

[0016] III-V compound semiconductor film;

III group element: (B) put together, aluminum and Ga, V group element: (N) put together In, P, As (Sb),

Crystal (compound);

: of 2 yuan GaP, InP, GaAs, InAs of 3 yuan: A hydrogen-peroxide component makes an anion component (As, P) easy for an AlGaP, AlGaAs, AlInP,

AllnAsGaInP, GaInAs, and : of 4 yuan AlGaInP and AlGaInAs [of 5 yuan]:AlGaInAsP(1) hydrochloric-acid (hydrogen chloride water solution) component to often etch aluminum, and to oxidize and etch. Since the arsenious acid (OH) As 3 generated at a reaction with an acid cannot melt into water easily, especially the arsenides (AlGaAs, GaAs, etc.) of advance of an etching reaction are late. However, the arsenic acid (OH) AsO 3 which oxidized by H2O2 melts into water well in deliquescence for a while (solubility 630g/100gH2O). So, H2O2 with the oxidation are added to an etching reagent, and an etching reaction is advanced.

- (2) The ratio of a hydrochloric-acid component and a hydrogen-peroxide component determines the balance of the etch rate of the GaInP system film and the GaAs system film.
- (3) Addition of a sulfuric acid has the flattening effectiveness of the etch rate of each compound semiconductor film.
- (4) An acetic acid is an indispensable component and carries out strong fluxing action [un-choose] to each semi-conductor film with a (acetic-acid + hydrogen peroxide).

[0017] Like an operation of the above (2), in order for the ratio of a

hydrochloric-acid component and a hydrogen-peroxide component to determine the balance of the etch rate of the GalnP system film and the GaAs system film, it is desirable for the weight ratio of the hydrogen chloride and hydrogen peroxide which are contained in an etching reagent to be in or more 0.4 four or less range, and especially, in the 1.2 neighborhoods, the balance of an etch rate becomes uniform and is the most desirable.

[0018] Moreover, as an etching reagent of the compound semiconductor film, it is made a weight ratio and the content of a hydrogen chloride is 0.6 or less [0.2 or more] to an acetic acid 10, the content of a hydrogen peroxide is 0.5 or less [0.16 or more], and it is desirable for the content of a sulfuric acid to be 18 or less [4.6 or more].

[0019] The manufacture approach of the etching reagent of the compound semiconductor film of this invention An acetic acid 10 is received at the rate of a volume ratio. The hydrochloric acid of 36 % of the weight of hydrogen chloride contents 1.5 or less [0.5 or more] Hydrogen peroxide solution of 30 % of the weight of hydrogen-peroxide contents 1.5 or less [0.5 or more] While obtaining the water solution which prepared 64% of the weight of the sulfuric acid 20 or less [5 or more] and giving the almost same etch rate to each component of

GaAs, AlGaAs, AlGaInP, and GaInP Since 64% of the weight of a sulfuric acid is only added 20 or less [5 or more] to an acetic acid 10, it is hardly generated but generation of heat of an etching reagent carries out operation that the activity of preparation of an etching reagent becomes simple.

[0020] In addition, although various mixed approaches are in the preparation approach of other components of the etching reagent of this invention as well as the case of the above-mentioned sulfuric acid, if it becomes the density range same like the case of the above-mentioned sulfuric acid as the range shown in the claim of this invention, the same effectiveness will be achieved even if mixed approaches differ.

[0021] The etching approach of the compound semiconductor film of this invention With the etching reagent which consists of a water solution containing four components of an acetic acid, a sulfuric acid, a hydrogen chloride, and a hydrogen peroxide A part of 1st semi-conductor layer which consists of Alx1Ga1-x1-y2Iny2P (0.1 <=x1<1, 0<y2<0.9) formed on the semi-conductor layer which consists of Ga1-y1Iny1P (0 <=y1 <=1) It has the process which etches the 2nd semi-conductor layer both which consists of Ga1-y3Iny3P (0 <=y3 <=1) layer or an Alx2Ga1-x2As (0 <=x2<1) layer, and an etching side has

homogeneity and an operation of being smooth.

[0022] The etching approach of the compound semiconductor film of this invention About this configuration, with the etching reagent which consists of a water solution containing four components of said acetic acid, a sulfuric acid, a hydrogen chloride, and a hydrogen peroxide Said a part of 1st semi-conductor layer After the process which etches said 2nd semi-conductor layer both, with the high etching reagent of the selectivity of AlGaIP and GaInP The process which carries out selective etching of said 1st semi-conductor layer on said Ga1-y1Iny1P (0 <=y1 <=1) semi-conductor layer is established, and an etching side has an operation that homogeneity and the pattern of a high definition which is smooth and does not have over etching can be formed.

[0023] When the operation is further stated to a detail, a part of 1st semi-conductor layer above-mentioned in this invention At the process which etches the 2nd semi-conductor layer both which consists of Ga1-y3lny3P (0 <=y3 <=1) layer or an Alx2Ga1-x2As (0 <=x2<1) layer Since there is almost no selectivity over AlGaInP and GaInP of an etching reagent even if impurity contamination etc. is shown in the 1st semi-conductor layer front face, a smooth etching side can be formed. Therefore, also in the process which carries out

selective etching of the 1st continuing semi-conductor layer, the homogeneous high etching side where variation is small is acquired.

[0024] If an etching reagent with the high selectivity of AlGaInP and GaInP is especially used for the process which carries out selective etching of the 1st semi-conductor layer, much more the effectiveness

[0025] In addition, it is desirable to use the etching reagent which consists of a mixed solution of a hydrochloric acid and a polyfunctional carboxylic acid as a selection etching reagent in the above-mentioned process, and by making it such, raise the fluxing action of a hydrochloric acid, a polyfunctional carboxylic acid raises selectivity, and it is made to stabilize, and has the operation of making the etching side where homogeneity is high and smooth form.

[0026] In addition, a polyfunctional carboxylic acid means the carboxylic acid containing two or more functional groups (a carboxyl group is included), and means the carboxylic acid which contains [in all / two or more] a carboxyl group, a hydroxyl group, the amino group, etc. in intramolecular. As a concrete polyfunctional carboxylic acid, there is amino acid, such as dicarboxylic acid, such as hydroxy acid, such as a lactic acid, a tartaric acid, a citric acid, a glyceric acid, and a malic acid, and oxalic acid, a malonic acid, a maleic acid, boletic acid,

a succinic acid, and a glycine, an alanine, a serine, a valine, etc.

[0027] Moreover, it is desirable for the mixed ratio of the hydrochloric acid / polyfunctional carboxylic acid of a mixed solution to be [for the volume of the 50 % of the weight water solution of said polyfunctional carboxylic acid] or more 1 four or less range to the volume 1 of the hydrochloric acid (specific gravity [say / concentrated hydrochloric acid and following c-HCl] 1.18) of 36 % of the weight of hydrogen chloride contents, the polyfunctional carboxylic acid of this mixed range raises and stabilizes the selectivity of etching, and homogeneity carries out the operation of making a smooth high and etching side form.

[0028] In addition, as an etching property, an etching configuration, the homogeneity of etching covering the whole wafer surface, etc. are important in addition to an etch rate, and the homogeneity covering the whole wafer surface of etching in hydrochloric-acid concentration improves more in the high concentration field below 50 volume % (it is made a volume ratio and is c-HCI:50 % of the weight polyfunctional carboxylic-acid =1:1-3) above 25 volume %.

[0029] On the other hand, in the low concentration field below 50 volume % (it is made a volume ratio and is c-HCI:50 % of the weight polyfunctional

carboxylic-acid =1:1-3), the selectivity of hydrochloric-acid concentration of etching improves further above 25 volume %. The field of the mixed ratio of the above-mentioned hydrochloric acid / polyfunctional carboxylic acid has the outstanding hybrid effectiveness that etch selectivity has the maximal value to a mixed presentation ratio as shown in drawing 3.

[0030] Moreover, the property to be small has the influence on the etch rate by the class of the water with which the etch rate in the mixed solution of the above-mentioned hydrochloric acid and a polyfunctional carboxylic acid is added by it almost depending on hydrochloric-acid concentration, or carboxylic acid. Although, as for the etch rate to this AlGaInP, 200-400 (a part for nm/) are suitable from on the activity, especially as concentration of the hydrochloric acid (c-HCI) of an etching reagent, near below 33 volume % is suitable from the balance of the rate of etching, and homogeneity above 25 volume %.

[0031] In addition, it may be made a volume ratio, a ratio with a polyfunctional carboxylic acid may be fixed c-HCI:50% of the weight, and it may dilute with water, and may prepare.

[0032] It is desirable to use dicarboxylic acid or optical inactive hydroxy acid as the above-mentioned polyfunctional carboxylic acid, dicarboxylic acid has an

operation of raising the solubility of the generation metal salt by etching, in a polyfunctional carboxylic acid, and, on the other hand, it has the property in which optical inactive hydroxy acid is optical inactive, and its compatibility with water is also high in a carboxylic acid with much optical activity.

[0033] As concrete dicarboxylic acid, there are oxalic acid, a malonic acid, a maleic acid, boletic acid, a succinic acid, a malic acid, etc.

[0034] Moreover, although there are a tartaric acid, a lactic acid, a glyceric acid, a malic acid, etc. in hydroxy acid, there are a glycolic acid, a citric acid, etc. as optical inactive hydroxy acid.

[0035] Moreover, it is desirable to use what is especially a kind chosen from the malonic acid and the glycolic acid as a polyfunctional carboxylic acid, and a malonic acid is dicarboxylic acid which two carboxyl groups combined through the methylene group, and when it is an optically inactive object with the property as an acetic acid and almost same acid, it has the outstanding operation of raising the solubility of the generation metal salt by etching. Since the solubility of a malonic acid to water is also high at odorless microcrystal fine particles (melting point of 134 degrees C) unlike an acetic acid, it carries out endoergic and melts into water easily, it can use 50% of the weight of a water solution as

an undiluted solution. There are most of this water solution and the description of being easy to deal with it by no odor on an activity. A malonic acid is disassembled into an acetic acid and a carbon dioxide at the time of thermal decomposition.

[0036] On the other hand, by the molecular structure which the OH radical permuted by the acetic acid, a glycolic acid is optical inactive hydroxy acid with the simple structure which cut the tartaric-acid molecule to two exactly, and the solubility to water is also high and it fits this invention.

[0037] Hereafter, the gestalt of operation of this invention is explained using drawing 3 from drawing 1. In addition, in a drawing, the thing of weight % is expressed wt%.

[0038] (Gestalt 1 of operation) <u>Drawing 1</u> shows an example of the etching property of the etching reagent of the non-selectivity of this invention. As an etching reagent of this invention, the acetic-acid (specific gravity 1.07) 10 section is received at the rate of a volume ratio. A hydrochloric acid (c-HCl: 36 % of the weight of hydrogen chloride contents, specific gravity 1.18) The one section (it considers as a hydrogen chloride content and equivalent to the 0.36 weight section), The mixed water solution of the ten sections was prepared [hydrogen

peroxide solution (30 % of the weight of hydrogen-peroxide contents, specific gravity 1.12)] for the one section (it considers as a hydrogen-peroxide content and equivalent to the 0.3 weight section), and a 50 volume % sulfuric acid (a 64-% of the weight sulfuric acid, specific gravity 1.54). When it etches with this etching reagent to four kinds of compound semiconductor film, aluminum0.25Ga0.25In0.5P, Ga0.5In0.5P, aluminum0.5Ga0.5As, and GaAs, the outstanding property of giving the almost same etch rate like <u>drawing 1</u> and of not choosing is shown.

[0039] Drawing 2 is what shows an example of the sectional view of the ridge mold semiconductor laser in which the compound semiconductor multilayers by the etching approach of this invention were formed. (Gestalt 2 of operation) 2nd p mold cladding layer 6 which consists of the middle class 8 who consists a mask 7 of a GalnP layer of drawing 2 after formation (a), and an AlGalnP layer is etched finely. Etching is stopped in the etching halt layer 5 which consists of a GalnP layer, there is no over etching, and it has an operation of forming a front face flat and smooth uniformly [ridge / 13 / of a configuration like drawing 2 (b)]. [0040] The semi-conductor multilayers which form that of ** are formed of a Ga0.5ln0.5P semi-conductor layer (top layer) etc. as AlGalnP layer 6a as

aluminum0.25Ga0.25In0.5P layer (bottom layer) and GaInP layer 6b for example, on the Ga0.5In0.5 etching halt layer 5 which consists of P.

[0041] Moreover, the above-mentioned etching is performed by two steps of following etching processes using the new etching reagent of following this inventions.

[0042] That is, on these semi-conductor multilayers, after forming a mask pattern 7 by the silicon-dioxide film, the non-selectivity etching reagent of the gestalt 1 of the above-mentioned implementation is used as the 1st etching process, and pattern formation of both the interlayer 8 (top layer) of above-mentioned Ga0.5In0.5P and a part of 2nd p mold cladding layer 6 (bottom layer) of above-mentioned aluminum0.25Ga0.25In0.5P is etched and carried out.

[0043] With the selectivity etching reagent which consists of the above-mentioned hydrochloric acid/carboxylic acid as the 2nd etching process, the above-mentioned aluminum0.25Ga0.25In0.5P semi-conductor layer 6 (bottom layer) which remains is etched that there is completely no over etching, and a beautiful ridge-like pattern with a smooth front face is obtained.

[0044] An example of the etching property of the AlGaInP/GaInP selection etching reagent of this invention used here is shown in drawing 3. Drawing 3 is a

property at the time of using two kinds, a malonic acid and a tartaric acid, as a polyfunctional carboxylic acid of a selection etching reagent. It turns out that it has the hybrid effectiveness which was excellent as mentioned above.

[0045] It mixes at a rate of the volume 2 to the volume 1 of each hydrochloric acid (36 % of the weight of hydrogen chloride contents, specific gravity 1.18) using a malonic-acid water solution 50% of the weight, and the AlGalnP/GalnP selection etching reagent at the time of using a malonic acid prepares a selection etching reagent. Its homogeneity of etching is also so high that the interference fringe pattern by the unevenness of etching [after etching] on a wafer cannot observe this etching reagent visually at all about AlGalnP/GalnP selective etching.

[0046] This is further embedded in n mold embedding layers 9, such as a n-GaAs layer and a n-AlGaAs layer, p mold embedding layer 10, the 1st electrode 11, and the 2nd electrode 12 are formed further, and semiconductor laser like drawing 2 (d) is produced.

[0047] Moreover, as a configuration of the ridge 13 to which the etching approach of this invention is applied, 3 lamination which added the p-GaAS layer (cap layer) further may be formed between the masks 7 besides the two-layer

configuration of the above interlayers 8 and 2nd p mold cladding layer 6.

[0048] Moreover, since this invention can form mesa mold structure according to an etching process, it can be used also for production of the semiconductor laser of a mesa mold by embedding and forming waveguide in a crevice.

[0049] Next, the example of this invention is explained.

[0050] (Example 1) The water solution which prepared the one section for the hydrochloric acid (specific gravity 1.18), and prepared the one section and 64-% of the weight sulfuric-acid (specific gravity 1.54) 10 section for hydrogen peroxide solution (specific gravity 1.12) to the acetic-acid 10 section as an etching reagent at the rate of a volume ratio was prepared.

[0051] Moreover, as semi-conductor multilayers, on the GaAs substrate of 500-micrometer thickness, the wafer which carried out sequential formation of the Ga0.5In0.5P layer of 200nm thickness, the aluminum0.25Ga0.25In0.5P layer of 300nm thickness, the Ga0.5In0.5P layer of 70nm thickness, and the GaAs layer of 100nm thickness was prepared, and the pattern of the shape of a width-of-face pitch [of 2 micrometers] 28micrometer stripe was formed by the photoresist.

[0052] With the above-mentioned etching reagent, this wafer was etched by

each time amount for 20 seconds, 40 seconds, 60 seconds, and 80 seconds. After removing a photoresist, when the etching cross section of a wafer was observed with the scanning electron microscope 10,000 times the scale factor of this, it turned out that the etching side which has the level difference of 120nm, 270nm, 410nm, and 560nm from a front face, respectively and which is not extremely visible to a mirror plane, and has neither an etch residue nor a reaction affix is formed irrespective of the ingredient of each class. [of near and irregularity]

[0053] (Example 2) The water solution which prepared the 0.7 sections for the hydrochloric acid (specific gravity 1.18), and prepared the 0.7 sections and 64-% of the weight sulfuric-acid (specific gravity 1.54) 15 section for hydrogen peroxide solution (specific gravity 1.12) to the acetic-acid 10 section as an etching reagent at the rate of a volume ratio was prepared.

[0054] Moreover, as semi-conductor multilayers, on the GaAs substrate of 500-micrometer thickness, the wafer which carried out sequential formation of the Ga0.5In0.5P layer of 140nm thickness, the aluminum0.25Ga0.25In0.5P layer of 200nm thickness, and the GaAs layer of 70nm thickness was prepared, and the pattern of the shape of the same width-of-face pitch [of 2 micrometers]

28micrometer [as an example 1] stripe was formed by the photoresist.

[0055] With the above-mentioned etching reagent, this wafer was etched by each time amount for 20 seconds, 40 seconds, 60 seconds, and 80 seconds. After removing a photoresist, when the etching cross section of a wafer was observed with the scanning electron microscope 10,000 times the scale factor of this, it turned out that the etching side which has the level difference of 75nm, 190nm, 270nm, and 380nm from a front face, respectively and which is not extremely visible to a mirror plane, and has neither an etch residue nor a reaction affix is formed irrespective of the ingredient of each class. [of near and irregularity]

[0056] (Example 3) Like <u>drawing 2</u> (a) The etching halt layer 5 which consists of p-Ga0.5In0.5P of n mold cladding layer 2, a barrier layer 3, and 4 or 15nm thickness of p-aluminum0.25Ga0.25In0.5 p mold cladding layers of ** the 1st which consists of P on the n mold GaAs semi-conductor substrate 1 of 500-micrometer thickness, Sequential formation of 2nd p mold cladding layer 6 which consists of p-aluminum0.25Ga0.25In0.5P of 1100nm thickness, and the interlayer 8 who consists of p-Ga0.5In0.5P of 50nm thickness is carried out. The wafer of the compound semiconductor multilayers in which the mask 7 which

furthermore consists of a silicon dioxide of the shape of a width-of-face [of 2.6 micrometers] and pitch 300micrometer stripe was formed was prepared.

[0057] Two steps of following etching processes were performed using the above-mentioned wafer.

[0058] Using the non-selectivity etching reagent of the above-mentioned example 1 as the 1st etching process, it etched for 20 seconds and about 120nm thickness etching of a part of 2nd p mold cladding layer 6 (about 70nm thickness) which becomes the interlayer 8 who consists of p-Ga0.5In0.5P of said 50nm thickness from p-aluminum0.25Ga0.25In0.5P was carried out in total.

[0059] Subsequently, 500ml of mixed solutions of concentrated-hydrochloric-acid (HCl content: 36 % of the weight):50 % of the weight malonic-acid water-solution =1:3 was prepared as a selection etching reagent used for the 2nd etching process. When it was immersed and the above-mentioned wafer was etched, 2nd p mold cladding layer 6 which consists of the above-mentioned aluminum0.25Ga0.25In0.5P which remain in about 4 minutes has etched that there is completely no over etching. When the cross section of the 2nd p mold cladding layer 6 was observed with the scanning electron microscope 10,000 times the scale factor of this, it turned out that the

ridge 13 which the ridge 13 of a beautiful configuration as shown in <u>drawing 2</u> (b) is formed, and whose irregularity cannot be seen, and has neither an etch residue nor a reaction affix is obtained.

[0060] The outside of the ridge 13 section was further embedded after this by n mold embedding layer 9 which consists of n-GaAs like <u>drawing 2</u> (c), the electrodes 11 and 12 of p mold embedding layer 10 which consists of p-GaAs still as shown in (d), and a pair were formed, and ridge mold red semiconductor laser was completed.

[0061] (Example 4) Like <u>drawing 2</u> (a) The etching halt layer 5 which consists of p-Ga0.5In0.5P of n mold cladding layer 2, a barrier layer 3, and 4 or 15nm thickness of p-aluminum0.25Ga0.25In0.5 p mold cladding layers of ** the 1st which consists of P on the n mold GaAs semi-conductor substrate 1 of 500-micrometer thickness, Sequential formation of the interlayer 8 who consists of p-Ga0.5In0.5P of 6 or 30nm thickness of p-aluminum0.25Ga0.25In0.5 p mold cladding layers of ** the 2nd which consists of P of 1100nm thickness, and the cap layer which consists of p-GaAs of 30nm thickness is carried out. further -- width-of-face pitch [of 1.3 micrometers] 150micrometer -- the wafer of the compound semiconductor multilayers in which the mask 7 which consists of a

stripe-like silicon dioxide was formed was prepared.

[0062] Two steps of following etching processes were performed using the above-mentioned wafer.

[0063] Using the non-selectivity etching reagent of the above-mentioned example 2 as the 1st etching process, it etched for 40 seconds and about 190nm thickness etching of a part of 2nd p mold cladding layer 6 (about 130nm thickness) which becomes the interlayer 8 who consists of p-Ga0.5In0.5P of the cap layer which consists of p-GaAs of said 30nm thickness, and 30nm thickness from p-aluminum0.25Ga0.25In0.5P was carried out in total.

[0064] Subsequently, 500ml of mixed solutions of concentrated-hydrochloric-acid (HCl content: 36 % of the weight):50 % of the weight tartaric-acid water-solution =1:3 was prepared as a selection etching reagent as an etching reagent used for the 2nd etching process. When it was immersed and the above-mentioned wafer was etched, 2nd p mold cladding layer 6 which consists of the above-mentioned aluminum0.25Ga0.25In0.5P which remain in about 3.5 minutes has etched that there is completely no over etching. When the cross section of the 2nd p mold cladding layer 6 was observed with the scanning electron microscope 10,000 times the scale factor of

this, it turned out that the ridge 13 which the ridge 13 of a beautiful configuration as shown in <u>drawing 2</u> (b) is formed, and whose irregularity cannot be seen, and has neither an etch residue nor a reaction affix is obtained.

[0065] The outside of the ridge 13 section was further embedded after this by n mold embedding layer 9 which consists of n-GaAs like <u>drawing 2</u> (c), the electrodes 11 and 12 of p mold embedding layer 10 which consists of p-GaAs still like <u>drawing 2</u> (d), and a pair were formed, and ridge mold red semiconductor laser was completed.

[0066] (Example 5) The same 1st etching process as an example 3 was performed using the wafer of the same compound semiconductor multilayers as an example 3.

[0067] Subsequently, 500ml of mixed solutions of concentrated-hydrochloric-acid (HCl content: 36 % of the weight):50 % of the weight malonic-acid water-solution =1:2 was prepared as a selection etching reagent used for the 2nd etching process. When it was immersed and the above-mentioned wafer was etched, 2nd p mold cladding layer 6 which consists of the above-mentioned aluminum0.25Ga0.25In0.5P which remain in about 80 seconds has etched that there is completely no over etching. When the cross

section of the 2nd p mold cladding layer 6 was observed with the scanning electron microscope 10,000 times the scale factor of this, it turned out that the ridge 13 which the ridge 13 of a beautiful configuration as shown in <u>drawing 2</u> (b) is formed, and whose irregularity cannot be seen, and has neither an etch residue nor a reaction affix is obtained.

[0068] The outside of the ridge 13 section was further embedded after this by n mold embedding layer 9 which consists of n-aluminum0.5In0.5P like drawing 2 (c), the electrodes 11 and 12 of p mold embedding layer 10 which consists of p-GaAs still as shown in (d), and a pair were formed, compound semiconductor multilayers were formed, and the ridge mold red semiconductor laser which has real refractive-index structure was completed.

[0069]

[Effect of the Invention] According to the etching reagent with the non-selectivity of this invention new as mentioned above, it has the property to etch finely many of compound semiconductor film [each], such as GaAs, AlGaAs, AlGaInP, and GaInP, at the same rate, and the advantageous effectiveness that it can use broadly to the compound semiconductor multilayers of varieties is acquired.

[0070] Moreover, the advantageous effectiveness that dispersion can be

suppressed and realized is acquired in the pattern-like selective etching of the high definition of compound semiconductor multilayers by using combining the especially according to selectivity etching reagent etching process using the etching process by the etching reagent of the non-selectivity of above-mentioned this invention one by one.

[0071] Thus, this invention can be applied to many production processes represented by light emitting devices, such as light emitting diode and semiconductor laser, can obtain the compound semiconductor device of high performance, and is a so-called size of industrial value.

DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] Drawing showing an example of the etching property of the etching reagent of the non-selectivity by the gestalt 1 of operation of this invention

[Drawing 2] The sectional view of the ridge mold semiconductor laser which forms the compound semiconductor multilayers by the etching approach concerning the gestalt 2 of operation of this invention

[Drawing 3] Drawing showing an example of the etching property of the selection etching reagent concerning the gestalt 2 of operation of this invention [Description of Notations]

- 1 N-type-Semiconductor Substrate
- 2 N Mold Cladding Layer
- 3 Barrier Layer

- 4 1st P Mold Cladding Layer
- 5 Etching Halt Layer
- 6 2nd P Mold Cladding Layer
- 7 Mask
- 8 Interlayer
- 9 N Mold Embedding Layer
- 10 P Mold Embedding Layer
- 11 1st Electrode
- 12 2nd Electrode.
- 13 Ridge

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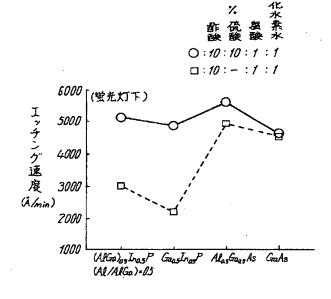
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(54) 【発明の名称】 化合物半導体膜のエッチング液およびその製造方法ならびに化合物半導体膜のエッチング方法

(57)【要約】

【課題】 化合物半導体膜をいずれも同様の速度できれいにエッチングする。

【解決手段】 体積比率で酢酸(比重1.07)10部に対して、塩酸(c-HCl:塩化水素含有量36重量%、比重1.18)を1部(塩化水素含有量として0.36重量部に相当)、過酸化水素水(過酸化水素含有量として0.3重量部に相当)、および50体積%硫酸(64重量%硫酸、比重1.54)を10部の混合水溶液を調製した。このエッチング液で、Alaz Gaas Inas P、Gaas Inas P、Gaas As、GaAsの4種類の化合物半導体膜に対してエッチングをした。



【特許請求の範囲】

酢酸、硫酸、塩化水素、および過酸化水 【請求項1】 素の4成分を含む水溶液よりなる化合物半導体膜のエッ チング液。

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【請求項2】 前記水溶液に含まれる塩化水素と過酸化 水素との重量比率が、0. 4以上4以下の範囲にある請 求項1に記載の化合物半導体膜のエッチング液。

【請求項3】 重量比率で酢酸10に対して、塩化水素 の含有量が0.2以上0.6以下であり、過酸化水素の 含有量が0.16以上0.5以下であり、硫酸の含有量 10 が4. 6以上18以下である請求項1に記載の化合物半 導体膜のエッチング液。

【請求項4】 体積比率で、酢酸10に対して、塩化水 素含有量36重量%の塩酸を0.5以上1.5以下、過 酸化水素含有量30重量%の過酸化水素水を0.5以上 1. 5以下、64重量%の硫酸を5以上20以下調合し た水溶液を得る化合物半導体膜のエッチング液の製造方

【請求項5】 酢酸、硫酸、塩化水素および過酸化水素 の4成分を含む水溶液よりなるエッチング液によって、 G a 1-y1 I n y1 P (0≤y 1≤1) よりなる半導体層上 に形成されたAlxi Gai-xi-y2 Iny2 P(0.1≦x 1<1、0<y2<0.9)よりなる第1の半導体層の 一部と、Ga_{1-y3} In_{y3} P (0≤ y 3≤1) 層またはA 1x2 Ga1-x2 As (0≤x2<1) 層よりなる第2の半 導体層とをともにエッチングする工程を有する化合物半 導体膜のエッチング方法。

【請求項6】 前記エッチング工程の後に、AIGaI n P と G a I n P との選択性の高い選択エッチング液に よって、前記Ga_{1-y1} In_{y1} P (0≤y1≤1) 半導体 30 層上の前記第1の半導体層を選択エッチングする工程を 設けた請求項5記載の化合物半導体膜のエッチング方 法。

【請求項7】 前記選択エッチング液が、塩酸と多官能 性カルボン酸との混合溶液よりなる請求項6に記載の化 合物半導体膜のエッチング方法。

【請求項8】 前記混合溶液の塩酸/多官能性カルボン 酸の混合比率が、塩化水素含有量36重量%の塩酸の体 積1に対して、前記多官能性カルボン酸の50重量%水 溶液の体積が1以上4以下の範囲である請求項7に記載 40 の化合物半導体多層膜のエッチング方法。

【請求項9】 多官能性カルボン酸が、ジカルボン酸ま たは光学不活性のオキシカルボン酸よりなる請求項7ま たは8に記載の化合物半導体多層膜のエッチング方法。

【請求項10】 多官能性カルボン酸が、マロン酸、グ リコール酸より選ばれた1つである請求項9に記載の化 合物半導体多層膜のエッチング方法。

【発明の詳細な説明】

[0001]

半導体レーザーなどの発光素子として用いられる半導体 デバイスを構成する化合物半導体膜のエッチング液およ びその製造方法ならびに化合物半導体膜のエッチング方 法に関する。

[0002]

【従来の技術】従来、半導体デバイスを構成するGaAs、 AlGaAs、AlGaInP、GaInPなどのIII-V属の化合物半導 体膜は、一般に有機金属気相成長法(MOCVD)を用いて 同種の化合物半導体基板上にエピタキシャル成長膜とし て作製される。半導体レーザーなどではこの化合物半導 体膜の多層膜を形成して、それぞれ量子井戸や活性層、 クラッド層、キャップ層などとして機能する。二酸化ケ イ素膜なども上記多層膜中に適時形成される。素子作製 プロセスでのエッチング工程では、化合物半導体多層膜 は化学的に金属塩的な性質を示しウエハ表面は親水性 で、シリコン半導体とは異なった化学反応性を示す。そ れ故、一般に化合物半導体のエッチング液は、酸または アルカリを侵食成分として構成されている。

【0003】そのエッチング液は、例えば無機酸に、酒 20 石酸、酢酸などの有機酸(カルボン酸)を混合し緩衝溶 液にし、酸の性質を安定化させかつエッチング特性を高 めて用いられる場合が多い。カルボン酸は無機酸に比べ プロトンの解離度が低く弱酸に属すが、有機酸で種々の 分子構造がありその分子構造の違いがエッチング特性に 種々の影響を与える。また、過酸化水素水をさらに加え て、化合物半導体の陰イオン成分に対する侵食性を高め てエッチング液が構成される場合も多い。

【0004】赤色レーザーなどに用いるAlGaInP、GaInP などよりなる化合物半導体デバイスの製造工程で、化合 物半導体多層膜の選択エッチング液として、従来硫酸や 塩酸などの無機酸を、酒石酸や酢酸などの有機カルボン 酸と混合して、AlGaInP/GaInPに対して選択エッチング 液として用いることが、例えば特開平7-86698号 公報に開示されている。

【0005】また、酢酸と塩酸と過酸化水素水の混合液 よりなる選択性のないエッチング液が知られていた。

[0006]

【発明が解決しようとする課題】しかし、上記従来のエ ッチング液では、化合物半導体デバイスを構成するGaA s、AlGaAs、AlGaInP、GaInPなど材料によりエッチング 選択性を有したり、エッチングの異方性が生じたりする ので、GaAs、AlGaAs、AlGaInPまたはGaInPよりなる化合 物半導体膜にいずれをも同様の速度でエッチングするこ とができなかったり、例えば化合物半導体膜の表面の荒 れを生じさせたりするという問題があった。すなわち、 化合物半導体膜の表面の荒れが生じるのを防止して表面 を平滑にエッチングするエッチング液がないという問題 点があった。

【0007】さらに上記の酢酸と塩酸と過酸化水素水の 【発明の属する技術分野】本発明は、発光ダイオードや 50 混合液は、酢酸濃度が極めて高く(80%以上)、強い 臭気を有し作業上取り扱い難い上、エッチング面も平滑 でないという問題点があった。

【0008】また、用いる有機酸として、酒石酸は水へ の溶解度も高くエッチング用に適したカルボン酸である が、OH基とカルボキシル基の相対位置によりD-、L-、me so-の三種類の光学異性体があってエッチングが光の影 響を受ける上、タルトラト金属錯体を形成する性質があ り、エッチング工程が複雑性を帯びるという欠点があっ た。

【0009】そこで、本発明は、GaAs、AlGaAs、AlGaIn 10 P、GaInPなどの各化合物半導体膜を、いずれも同様の速 度でかつ表面を平滑になるようにエッチングできる、選 択反応性を持たない化合物半導体膜のエッチング液を提 供することを第一の目的としている。

【0010】また、本発明の第二の目的は、上記エッチ ング液を用いて構成され、化合物半導体多層膜の高精細 度のパターン状選択エッチングを、ばらつきなく実現で きる新規な化合物半導体多層膜のエッチング方法を提供 することにある。

[0011]

【課題を解決するための手段】上記課題を解決するため に、本発明の化合物半導体膜のエッチング液は、酢酸、 硫酸、塩化水素、および過酸化水素の4成分を含む水溶 液よりなる化合物半導体膜のエッチング液より構成され

【0012】この構成により、GaAs、AlGaAs、AlGaIn P、CaInPなどの各化合物半導体膜のいずれも同様の速度 で、かつきれいにエッチングする、選択反応性を持たな い化合物半導体膜のエッチング液が得られる。

【0013】また、本発明の化合物半導体膜のエッチン グ方法は、酢酸、硫酸、塩化水素および過酸化水素の4 成分を含む水溶液よりなるエッチング液によって、Ga 1-y1 I n y1 P (0 ≤ y 1 ≤ 1) よりなる半導体層上に形 成された A 1_{x1} G $a_{1-x1-y-2}$ I n_{y2} P (0. $1 \le x$ 1 < 1、0 < y 2 < 0. 9) よりなる第1の半導体層の一部 と、Ca_{1-y3} In_{y3} P (0≤y3≤1) 層またはAl_{x2} G a_{1-x2} A s (0≤x2<1)層よりなる第2の半導体 層とをともにエッチングする工程と、AlGaInPとGaInPと の選択性の高い選択エッチング液によって、前記 Ga 1-y1 I n y1 P (0≤y1≤1)半導体層上の前記第1の 40 半導体層を選択エッチングする工程とを設けたものであ る。

【0014】この構成により、化合物半導体多層膜の高 精細度のパターン状選択エッチングを、ばらつきなく実 現できる化合物半導体多層膜のエッチング方法が得られ る。

[0015]

【発明の実施の形態】本発明のエッチング液は、酢酸、 硫酸、塩化水素および過酸化水素の4成分を含む水溶液 よりなる化合物半導体膜のエッチング液としたものであ 50

り、この4成分のすべてが必要で、この各成分はIII-V化合物半導体膜に対して次のような作用を有する。

【0016】III-V化合物半導体膜;

組み合わされるIII族元素:(B)、Al、Ga、In 組み合わされるV族元素: (N)、P、As、(Sb) 結晶(化合物);

2元:GaP、InP、GaAs、InAs

3元:AlGaP、AlGaAs、AlInP、AlInAs GaInP、GaInAs、

4元:AlGaInP、AlGaInAs

5元:AlGaInAsP

- (1)塩酸(塩化水素水溶液)成分はAlをよくエッチン グし、過酸化水素成分はアニオン成分(As、P)を酸化し エッチングしやすくする。特にヒ化物(AlGaAs、GaAsな ど)は、酸との反応で生成する亜ヒ酸 A s (OH) が水 に溶け難いため、エッチング反応の進行は遅い。しか し、1202で酸化されたヒ酸AS〇(OH)3は少し潮解性 で水によく溶ける(溶解度630g/100gH20)。それ故、 酸化作用の有るトム 0₂ をエッチング液に加えてエッチング 反応を進行させる。
- (2) 塩酸成分と過酸化水素成分の比率がGalnP系膜とG aAs系膜のエッチング速度のバランスを決める。
- (3) 硫酸の添加は、各化合物半導体膜のエッチング速 度の平坦化効果がある。
- (4) 酢酸は必須成分で、(酢酸+過酸化水素)で各半 導体膜に対して非選択的な強い侵食作用をする。

【0017】上記(2)の作用のように、塩酸成分と過 酸化水素成分の比率がGaInP系膜とGaAs系膜のエッチン グ速度のバランスを決めるためには、エッチング液に含 まれる塩化水素と過酸化水素との重量比率が、0.4以 上 4 以下の範囲にあることが望ましく、中でも 1. 2 付 近においてはエッチング速度のバランスが一様になり最 も好ましい。

【0018】また、化合物半導体膜のエッチング液とし て、重量比率にして酢酸10に対して、塩化水素の含有 量が0.2以上0.6以下であり、過酸化水素の含有量 が0.16以上0.5以下であり、硫酸の含有量が4. 6以上18以下であるのが望ましい。

【0019】本発明の化合物半導体膜のエッチング液の 製造方法は、体積比率で、酢酸10に対して、塩化水素 含有量36重量%の塩酸を0.5以上1.5以下、過酸 化水素含有量30重量%の過酸化水素水を0.5以上 1. 5以下、64重量%の硫酸を5以上20以下調合し た水溶液を得るものであり、GaAs、AlGaAs、AlGaInP、G aInPの各成分に対してほぼ同じエッチング速度を与える とともに、酢酸10に対して64重量%の硫酸を5以上 20以下加えるだけなので、エッチング液の発熱はほと んど生じず、エッチング液の調合の作業が簡便になると いう作用をする。

【0020】なお、本発明のエッチング液の他の成分の

調合方法にも、上記の硫酸の場合と同様、種々の混合方法があるが、上記硫酸の場合と同様に、本発明の請求項に示す範囲と同じ濃度範囲になるのであれば、混合方法が異なっても同様の効果を果たす。

【0022】本発明の化合物半導体膜のエッチング方法は、かかる構成につき、前記酢酸、硫酸、塩化水素および過酸化水素の4成分を含む水溶液よりなるエッチング液によって前記第1の半導体層の一部と、前記第2の半導体層とをともにエッチングする工程の後に、 $A 1 G a I P と G a I n P と の選択性の高いエッチング液によっ 20 て、前記 <math>G a_{1-y1} I n_{y1} P (0 \le y 1 \le 1)$ 半導体層上の前記第1の半導体層を選択エッチングする工程を設けたものであり、エッチング面が均一かつ平滑で、オーバーエッチングのない高精細度のパターンを形成できるという作用を有する。

【0023】その作用をさらに詳細に述べると、本発明では上記の第1の半導体層の一部と、 Ga_{1-y} In_{y} P (0 \leq y3 \leq 1) 層または Al_{2} Ga_{1-y} As (0 \leq x2<1) 層よりなる第2の半導体層とをともにエッチングする工程で、第1の半導体層表面に不純物汚染などが 30 あっても、エッチング液のAlGaInPeGaInPeCaInPeChidan がほとんどないので、平滑なエッチング面を形成できる。そのため、続く第1の半導体層を選択エッチングする工程においても、バラツキが小さくかつ均一性の高いエッチング面が得られる。

【0024】とりわけ、第1の半導体層を選択エッチングする工程にAlGaInPとGaInPとの選択性が高いエッチング液を用いれば、その効果はなおさらである。

【0025】なお、上記工程において、選択エッチング 40 液として塩酸と多官能性カルボン酸との混合溶液よりなるエッチング液を用いるのが望ましく、そのようにすることにより塩酸の侵食作用を多官能性カルボン酸によって選択性を高め安定化させて、均一性が高く平滑なエッチング面を形成させるという作用を有する。

【0026】なお、多官能性カルボン酸とは、2個以上の官能基(カルボキシル基を含む)を含むカルボン酸をいい、分子内にカルボキシル基、水酸基、アミノ基などを合わせて複数個含むカルボン酸をいう。具体的な多官能性カルボン酸としては、乳酸、酒石酸、クエン酸、グ50

リセリン酸、リンゴ酸などのオキシカルボン酸や、蓚酸、マロン酸、マレイン酸、フマール酸、コハク酸などのジカルボン酸や、グリシン、アラニン、セリン、バリンなどのアミノ酸などがある。

【0027】また、混合溶液の塩酸/多官能性カルボン酸の混合比率が、塩化水素含有量36重量%の塩酸(濃塩酸、以下c-HClという、比重1.18)の体積1に対して、前記多官能性カルボン酸の50重量%水溶液の体積が1以上4以下の範囲であるのが望ましく、この混合範囲の多官能性カルボン酸がエッチングの選択性を高め安定化させて、均一性が高くかつ平滑なエッチング面を形成させるという作用をする。

【0028】なお、エッチング特性としては、エッチング速度以外に、エッチング形状やウエハ全面にわたるエッチングの均一性などが大切で、塩酸濃度が25体積%以上で50体積%以下(体積比にしてc-HCl:50重量%多官能性カルボン酸=1:1~3)の高濃度領域では、エッチングのウエハ全面にわたる均一性がより向上する。

【0029】一方、塩酸濃度が25体積%以上で50体積%以下(体積比にしてc-HC1:50重量%多官能性カルボン酸=1:1~3)の低濃度領域では、エッチングの選択性がより一層向上する。上記の塩酸/多官能性カルボン酸の混合比率の領域は、例えば図3に示すように混合組成比に対してエッチング選択比が極大値を有するという優れたハイブリッド効果を有する。

【0030】また、上記の塩酸と多官能性カルボン酸との混合溶液におけるエッチング速度は、ほぼ塩酸濃度に依存し、それに添加される水やカルボン酸の種類によるエッチング速度への影響は小さいという性質がある。このA1GaInPに対するエッチング速度は、作業上からは200~400(nm/分)が適しているが、エッチングの速度と均一性との兼ね合いから、エッチング液の塩酸(c-HC1)の濃度としては、25体積%以上で33体積%以下付近が特に適している。

【 0 0 3 1 】 なお、体積比にして c - H C 1 : 5 0 重量 % 多官能性カルボン酸との比率を一定にして水で希釈して調製する場合もある。

【0032】上記の多官能性カルボン酸として、ジカルボン酸または光学不活性のオキシカルボン酸を用いるのが望ましく、多官能性カルボン酸の中でジカルボン酸はエッチングによる生成金属塩の溶解度を高めるという作用があり、一方光学不活性のオキシカルボン酸は、多くの光学活性をもつカルボン酸の中で、光学不活性でかつ水との親和性も高いという性質を有する。

【0033】具体的なジカルボン酸としては、蓚酸、マロン酸、マレイン酸、フマール酸、コハク酸、リンゴ酸などがある。

【0034】また、オキシカルボン酸には酒石酸、乳酸、グリセリン酸、リンゴ酸などがあるが、光学不活性

のオキシカルボン酸としては、グリコール酸やクエン酸などがある。

【0035】また、とりわけ多官能性カルボン酸として、マロン酸、グリコール酸より選ばれた一種であるものを用いるのが望ましく、マロン酸は、メチレン基を介して二個のカルボキシル基が結合したジカルボン酸で、酢酸とほとんど同様の酸としての性質を持つ光学不活性体である上、エッチングによる生成金属塩の溶解度を高めるという優れた作用を有する。マロン酸は酢酸と異なり無臭の微結晶粉体(融点134℃)で水への溶解度も10高く、吸熱して水に容易に溶けるので50重量%の水溶液を原液として用いることができる。この水溶液もほとんど無臭で作業上取り扱いやすいという特徴もある。マロン酸は、加熱分解時には酢酸と二酸化炭素に分解する

【0036】一方、グリコール酸は酢酸にOH基が置換した分子構造で、ちょうど酒石酸分子を二つに切った構造のシンプルな光学不活性のオキシカルボン酸であり、水への溶解度も高く本発明に適している。

【0037】以下、本発明の実施の形態について図1か 20 ら図3を用いて説明する。なお、図面において、wt% とは重量%のことを表す。

【0038】(実施の形態1)図1は本発明の非選択性のエッチング液のエッチング特性の一例を示す。本発明のエッチング液としては、体積比率で酢酸(比重1.07)10部に対して、塩酸(c-HC1:塩化水素含有量36重量%、比重1.18)を1部(塩化水素含有量として0.36重量部に相当)、過酸化水素水(過酸化水素含有量として0.3重量部に相当)、および50体30積%硫酸(64重量%硫酸、比重1.54)を10部の混合水溶液を調製した。このエッチング液で、Alas Gaas Asの4種類の化合物半導体膜に対してエッチングをしたところ、図1のようにほぼ同じエッチング速度を与えるという優れた非選択特性を示す。

【0039】(実施の形態2)図2は本発明のエッチング方法による化合物半導体多層膜を形成したリッジ型半導体レーザーの断面図の一例を示すもので、マスク7を形成後図2(a)のGaInP層よりなる中間層8とA1GaInP層よりなる第2のp型クラッド層6とをきれいにエッチングし、GaInP層よりなるエッチング停止層5でエッチングを停止させオーバーエッチングがなく、図2(b)のような形状のリッジ13を均一にかつ表面を平滑に形成するという作用を有するものである。

【0040】このを形成する半導体多層膜は、例えば、Gaos Inos Pよりなるエッチング停止層5上に、AlGaInP層6aとしてAlozs Gaozs Inos P層(下側層)、およびGaInP層6bとしてGaos

Inos P半導体層(上側層)などによって形成される。

【0041】また、上記エッチングは、次のような本発明の新規なエッチング液を用いて、次の二段階のエッチング工程によっておこなわれる。

【0042】すなわち、この半導体多層膜上に例えば二酸化ケイ素膜でマスクパターン7を形成した後、第1エッチング工程として、上記実施の形態1の非選択性エッチング液を用いて、上記Gaos Inos Pの中間層8(上側層)と、上記Aloz Gaoz Inos Pの第2のp型クラッド層6(下側層)の一部とを共にエッチングしてパターン形成する。

【0043】第2エッチング工程として、上記の塩酸/カルボン酸よりなる選択性エッチング液によって、残っている上記 A loss G a loss I nos P 半導体層 6 (下側層)を完全にかつオーバーエッチングなくエッチングして、表面が平滑であるきれいなリッジ状パターンを得る。

【0044】ここで用いる本発明のAlGaInP/GaInP選択エッチング液のエッチング特性の一例を図3に示す。図3は選択エッチング液の多官能性カルボン酸として、マロン酸、酒石酸の2種類を用いた場合の特性である。上記のように優れたハイブリッド効果を有しているということがわかる。

【0045】マロン酸を用いた場合のAlGalnP/GalnP選択エッチング液は、50重量%マロン酸水溶液を用い、各塩酸(塩化水素含有量36重量%、比重1.18)の体積1に対して、体積2の割合で混合して選択エッチング液を調合する。このエッチング液は、AlGalnP/GalnP選択エッチングに関して、エッチング後にウエハ上にエッチングのむらによる干渉縞模様が全く目視で観察し得ないほどエッチングの均一性も高い。

【0046】これをさらに、n-GaAs層やn-AlGaAs層などのn型埋め込み層9で埋め込み、さらにp型埋め込み層10、第1の電極11、第2の電極12を形成して、図2(d)のような半導体レーザーを作製する。

【0047】また、本発明のエッチング方法が適用されるリッジ13の構成としては、上記のような中間層8と第2のp型クラッド層6との2層構成のほか、マスク7との間にさらにp-GaAS層(キャップ層)を加えた3層構成を形成する場合もある。

【0048】また本発明は、エッチング工程によってメサ型構造を形成することができるため、凹部に導波路を埋め込んで形成することによって、メサ型の半導体レーザーの作製にも用いることができる。

【0049】次に、本発明の具体例を説明する。

【0050】(具体例1)エッチング液として、体積比50 率で酢酸10部に対して、塩酸(比重1.18)を1

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部、過酸化水素水(比重1.12)を1部、および64 重量%硫酸(比重1.54)10部を調合した水溶液を 用意した。

【0051】また、半導体多層膜として、500 μ m厚のGaAs基板上に、200nm厚のGaas Inos P層、300nm厚のAlos Gaas Inos P層、70nm厚のGaos Inos P層、70nm厚のGaos Inos P層、および100nm厚の GaAs 層を順次形成したウエハを用意し、ホトレジストで幅2 μ mピッチ28 μ mのストライプ状のパターンを形成した。

【0052】上記エッチング液で、このウエハを20秒、40秒、60秒、80秒の各時間でエッチングした。ホトレジストを除去した後、ウエハのエッチング断面を倍率1万倍の走査電子顕微鏡により観察したところ、各層の材料にかかわらず、それぞれ表面より120 nm、270nm、410nm、560nmの段差を有する極めて鏡面に近く、凹凸が見えずかつエッチング残渣や反応付着物のないエッチング面が形成されていることがわかった。

【0053】(具体例2) エッチング液として、体積比 20率で酢酸10部に対して、塩酸(比重1.18)を0.7部、過酸化水素水(比重1.12)を0.7部、および64重量%硫酸(比重1.54)15部を調合した水溶液を用意した。

【0054】また、半導体多層膜として、500 μ m厚のGaAs基板上に、140nm厚のGaas Inas P層、200nm厚のAlas Gaas Inas P層、および70nm厚のGaAs 層を順次形成したウエハを用意し、ホトレジストで実施例1と同様の幅2 μ mピッチ28 μ mのストライプ状のパターンを形成した。

【0055】上記エッチング液で、このウエハを20秒、40秒、60秒、80秒の各時間でエッチングした。ホトレジストを除去した後、ウエハのエッチング断面を倍率1万倍の走査電子顕微鏡により観察したところ、各層の材料にかかわらず、それぞれ表面より75 nm、190 nm、270 nm、380 nmの段差を有する極めて鏡面に近く、凹凸が見えずかつエッチング残渣や反応付着物のないエッチング面が形成されていることがわかった。

【0056】(具体例3)図2(a)のように、500 μ 40 m厚のn型GaAs半導体基板1上にn型クラッド層 2、活性層3、 $p-Al_{0.25}$ Ga $_{0.25}$ In $_{0.5}$ Pよりなる第1のp型クラッド層4、15nm厚の $p-Ga_{0.5}$ In $_{0.5}$ Pよりなるエッチング停止層5、1100nm厚の $p-Al_{0.25}$ Ga $_{0.25}$ In $_{0.5}$ Pよりなる第2のp型クラッド層6、および50nm厚の $p-Ga_{0.5}$ In $_{0.5}$ Pよりなる中間層8を順次形成し、さらに幅2.6 μ m、ピッチ300 μ mのストライプ状の二酸化ケイ素よりなるマスク7を形成した化合物半導体多層膜のウエハを用意した。 50

【0057】上記ウエハを用いて、次のような二段階の エッチング工程をおこなった。

【0058】第1エッチング工程として、上記実施例1の非選択性エッチング液を用いて、20秒間エッチングし、前記50nm厚の $p-Ga_{0.5}$ Ino.5 Pよりなる中間層8と $p-Al_{0.25}$ Gao.25 Ino.5 Pよりなる第2のp型クラッド層6の一部(約70nm厚)とを合計で約120nm厚エッチングした。

【0059】次いで、第2エッチング工程に用いる選択エッチング液として、濃塩酸(HCl含有量:36重量%):50重量%マロン酸水溶液=1:3の混合溶液を500ml用意した。上記ウエハを浸漬してエッチングしたところ、約4分で残っている上記Aluzs Gauzs Inus Pよりなる第2のp型クラッド層6が、完全にかつオーバーエッチングなくエッチングできた。その第2のp型クラッド層6の断面を倍率1万倍の走査電子顕微鏡により観察したところ、図2(b)に示すようなきれいな形状のリッジ13が形成され、かつ凹凸が見えずかつエッチング残渣や反応付着物のないリッジ13が得られていることがわかった。

【0060】この後さらにリッジ13部の外側を図2 (c)のようにn-GaAsよりなるn型埋め込み層9により埋め込み、さらに(d)のようにp-GaAsよりなるp型埋め込み層10と一対の電極11、12を形成してリッジ型赤色半導体レーザーを完成した。

【0062】上記ウエハを用いて、次のような二段階の エッチング工程をおこなった。

【0063】第1エッチング工程として、上記実施例2の非選択性エッチング液を用いて、40秒間エッチングし、前記30nm厚のp-GaAsよりなるキャップ層と30nm厚のp-Gaos Inos Pよりなる中間層8とp-Alos Gaos Inos Pよりなる第2のp型クラッド層6の一部(約130nm厚)とを合計で約190nm厚エッチングした。

【0064】次いで、第2エッチング工程に用いるエッチング液として、選択エッチング液として、濃塩酸(HCl含有量:36重量%):50重量%酒石酸水溶液=1:3の混合溶液を500ml用意した。上記ウエハを

浸漬してエッチングしたところ、約3.5分で残っている上記 $A \ las$ $G \ aax$ $I \ nas$ $P \ s$ $L \ s$

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【0065】この後さらにリッジ13部の外側を図2(c)のようにn-GaAsよりなるn型埋め込み層9により埋め込み、さらに図2(d)のようにp-GaAsよりなるp型埋め込み層10と一対の電極11、12を形成してリッジ型赤色半導体レーザーを完成した。

【0066】(具体例5) 具体例3と同様の化合物半導体多層膜のウエハを用い、具体例3と同様の第1エッチング工程をおこなった。

【0067】次いで、第2エッチング工程に用いる選択エッチング液として、濃塩酸(HCl含有量:36重量%):50重量%マロン酸水溶液=1:2の混合溶液を500ml用意した。上記ウエハを浸漬してエッチング 20したところ、約80秒で残っている上記Alogs Gaの25 Inos Pよりなる第2のp型クラッド層6が、完全にかつオーバーエッチングなくエッチングできた。その第2のp型クラッド層6の断面を倍率1万倍の走査電子顕微鏡により観察したところ、図2(b)に示すようなきれいな形状のリッジ13が形成され、かつ凹凸が見えずかつエッチング残渣や反応付着物のないリッジ13が得られていることがわかった。

【0068】この後さらにリッジ13部の外側を図2 (c)のようにn-Alos Inos Pよりなるn型埋め込 30 み層9により埋め込み、さらに(d)のようにp-Ga Asよりなるp型埋め込み層10と一対の電極11、1 2を形成して化合物半導体多層膜を形成し、実屈折率構造を有するリッジ型赤色半導体レーザーを完成した。

[0069]

【発明の効果】以上のように本発明の非選択性の新規なエッチング液によれば、GaAs、AlGaAs、Al

GalnP、GalnPなどの多くの化合物半導体膜をいずれも同様の速度できれいにエッチングするという性質を持ち、多種類の化合物半導体多層膜に対して広範囲に使うことができるという有利な効果が得られる。

【0070】また、上記本発明の非選択性のエッチング 液によるエッチング工程を用いる、とりわけ選択性エッ チング液によるエッチング工程とを順次組み合わせて用 いることにより、化合物半導体多層膜の高精細度のパタ ーン状選択エッチングを、ばらつきを抑えて実現できる という有利な効果が得られる。

【0071】このように本発明は、発光ダイオードや半導体レーザーなど発光素子に代表される多くの作製プロセスに適用でき、高性能の化合物半導体デバイスを得ることができるもので、工業的価値の大なるものである。 【図面の簡単な説明】

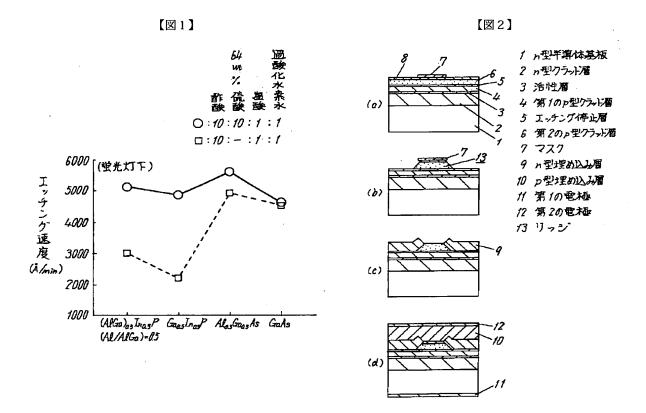
【図1】本発明の実施の形態1による非選択性のエッチング液のエッチング特性の一例を示す図

【図2】本発明の実施の形態2に係るエッチング方法による化合物半導体多層膜を形成するリッジ型半導体レーザーの断面図

【図3】本発明の実施の形態2に係る選択エッチング液のエッチング特性の一例を示す図

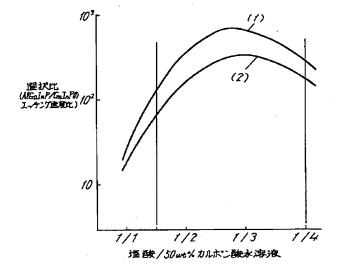
【符号の説明】

- 1 n型半導体基板
- 2 n型クラッド層
- 3 活性層
- 4 第1のp型クラッド層
- 5 エッチング停止層
- 6 第2のp型クラッド層
- 30 7 マスク
 - 8 中間層
 - 9 n型埋め込み層
 - 10 p型埋め込み層
 - 11 第1の電極
 - 12 第2の電極
 - 13 リッジ



【図3】 (1) 3氯酸/50㎡%酒石酸

(2) 塩酸/50m% マロン酸



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